

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)

10. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing an isolated polypeptide ~~corresponding to the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, said preparation process~~ comprising the following steps:
- (a) ~~culture~~, culturing under suitable conditions to obtain the expression of said polypeptide, ~~[[of]]~~ a host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide comprising ~~[[the]]~~ a polynucleotide sequence with at least 95% homology to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13, the sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH protein and is associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and
 - (b) ~~isolation of~~ isolating the polypeptide from the host cell cultures.

Claims 11-22 **(Cancelled)**

23. **(New)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.
24. **(New)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

25. **(New)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence with at least 95% homology with the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide with at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH protein and is associated with the modulation of cell proliferation.
26. **(New)** An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 25.
27. **(New)** A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 26.
28. **(New)** A method of making a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 27 under suitable conditions to obtain expression of said polypeptide.
29. **(New)** The method of claim 28, further comprising isolating said polypeptide from the host cell culture.
30. **(New)** An isolated polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 25.
31. **(New)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence with at least 95% homology with the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide with at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH protein and is associated with the modulation of cell proliferation.
32. **(New)** An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 31.
33. **(New)** A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 32.
34. **(New)** A method of making a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 33 under suitable conditions to obtain expression of said polypeptide.

35. **(New)** The method of claim 34, further comprising isolating said polypeptide from the host cell culture.
36. **(New)** An isolated polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 31.
37. **(New)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11.
38. **(New)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.
39. **(New)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence with at least 95% homology with the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide with at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH protein and is associated with the modulation of cell proliferation.
40. **(New)** An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 39.
41. **(New)** A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 40.
42. **(New)** A method of making a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 41 under suitable conditions to obtain expression of said polypeptide.
43. **(New)** The method of claim 42, further comprising isolating said polypeptide from the host cell culture.
44. **(New)** An isolated polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 39.